

Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative, Mr. Paul Tsou, during the August 8 personal interview. The substance of the personal interview is incorporated into the remarks below.

The Office Action objects to the drawings. The drawings are corrected to obviate the objection. A Request for Approval of Drawing Corrections is enclosed. The Office Action objects to the Title. The Title is amended as suggested by the Office Action. Withdrawal of the objections to the drawings and Title is respectfully solicited.

The Office Action rejects claims 11-13, 27 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Kawanabe et al. (U.S. Patent 6,133,557). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action asserts that Kawanabe discloses a first heater 12 and a second heater 13 that is disposed within the ceramic substrate 11, and that the heaters are offset relative to each other in the thickness direction. However, Applicant respectfully submits that Kawanabe discloses two separate heaters, the first heater 12 and the second heater 13, where each of the heaters are disposed on the same offset level in the thickness direction of the substrate 11. In contrast, claim 11 recites at least part of said heat generation pattern being disposed on an offset level different from that of others of said heat generation pattern in the thickness direction.

As agreed to during the personal interview, Kawanabe's heaters 12 and 13 are two separate heating elements each disposed at a fixed level within the substrate. Thus, Kawanabe does not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claim 11, or claims 12, 13, 27 and 28 depending therefrom. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 11-13, 27 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully solicited.

The Office Action rejects claims 11-13 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Okuda et al. (U.S. Patent 5,750,958). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action asserts that Okuda discloses first and second heaters 3 and 4, offset in the thickness direction and embedded in the ceramic substrate 1. However, as agreed to during the personal interview, Okuda does not disclose or suggest two heater elements where at least one part of each heater element is disposed of a different offset level in the thickness direction than other parts. In addition, Okuda does not disclose or suggest a heater for a wafer that comprises a disk-shaped ceramic substrate.

In view of the above, Okuda does not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claim 11, or claims 12, 13 and 26 depending therefrom. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 11-13 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully solicited.

The Office Action rejects under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) claims 14-19 and 24-26 over Kawanabe in view of Kimura (U.S. Patent 5,331,134); and claims 20-23 over Kawanabe or Okuda in view of Nirori et al. (U.S. Patent 5,280,156). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Kimura discloses heat elements formed on top and bottom surfaces of a substrate not within the substrate. Heating elements formed on the surface of a substrate have entirely different thermo effects than when heating elements are formed internally to the substrate. Thus, Kimura is directed to completely different subject matter and does not supply the subject matter lacking in Kawanabe. Thus, Kimura does not disclose or suggest the subject matter lacking in Kawanabe and Okuda.

The Office Action admits that Kawanabe and Okuda do not disclose or suggest a heater that is spiral wired, but asserts that Nirori discloses such subject matter, and that one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine Nirori with either Kawanabe or Okuda. However, as agreed to during the personal interview and discussed above, neither Kawanabe nor Okuda discloses or suggests a heat generation pattern disposed within said disk-shaped ceramic substrate at least part of said heat-generation pattern being disposed on

an offset level different from that of others of said heat-generation pattern, as recited in claim 11. Nirori also does not disclose such subject matter.

Thus, Nirori and/or Kimura do not supply the subject matter lacking in Kawanabe or Okuda. Accordingly, Kawanabe, Okuda, Nirori and Kimura, individually or in combination, would not have rendered obvious the subject matter recited in claim 11. Claims 14-26 depend from claim 11. Accordingly, none of the applied references disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 14-26. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 14-26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully solicited.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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JAO:PT/sld

Attachments:

Appendix  
Request for Approval of Drawing Corrections

Date: August 12, 2002

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